



Complete Summary

TITLE

Health plan members' experiences: percentage of parents or guardians of health plan members who reported how often it was easy to get specialized services for their children with chronic conditions.

SOURCE(S)

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). HEDIS® 2009: Healthcare Effectiveness Data & Information Set. Vol. 2, Technical Specifications. Washington (DC): National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA); 2008 Jul. various p.

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). HEDIS® 2009: Healthcare Effectiveness Data & Information Set. Vol. 3, Specifications for Survey Measures. Washington (DC): National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA); 2008 Jul. 98 p.

Measure Domain

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Patient Experience

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Access

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

The CAHPS Health Plan Survey 4.0H, Child Version provides information on parents' or guardians' experience with their child's health plan for the population of children with chronic conditions (CCC). Results include the same ratings, composites and individual question summary rates as those reported for the [CAHPS Health Plan Survey 4.0H, Child Version](#).

In addition, five CCC composites summarize satisfaction with basic components of care essential for successful treatment, management and support of children with chronic conditions.

1. Access to Prescription Medicines
2. Access to Specialized Services
3. Family Centered Care: Personal Doctor Who Knows Child
4. Family Centered Care: Getting Needed Information
5. Coordination of Care for Children with Chronic Conditions

For this "Access to Specialized Services" measure, parents or guardians of children with chronic conditions report how often it was easy to get specialized care for their child. The "Access to Specialized Services" composite measure is based on three questions in the CAHPS 4.0H Child Questionnaire.

RATIONALE

NCQA's Committee on Performance Measurement has long felt that consumer experience with health care is a critical component of quality of care and is itself an outcome of care.

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Health care; members' experiences; chronic conditions; access to specialized services

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

Health plan members with chronic conditions 17 years and younger whose parent or guardian answered the "Access to Specialized Services" questions on the CAHPS 4.0H Child Questionnaire (see the "Description of Case Finding" and "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" fields in the Complete Summary)

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

The number of "Never," "Sometimes," "Usually," and "Always" responses on the "Access to Specialized Services" questions (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

Evidence Supporting the Measure

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY

- A formal consensus procedure involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, and organizational sciences
- One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

Accreditation
Decision-making by businesses about health-plan purchasing
Decision-making by consumers about health plan/provider choice
External oversight/Medicaid
External oversight/State government program
Internal quality improvement

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Managed Care Plans

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Measure is not provider specific

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Age less than or equal to 17 years

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Unspecified

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Unspecified

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

End of Life Care
Getting Better
Living with Illness
Staying Healthy

IOM DOMAIN

Patient-centeredness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Both users and nonusers of care

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

Health plan members with chronic conditions 17 years and younger as of December 31st of the measurement year, who have been continuously enrolled in the health plan during the measurement year (commercial) or the last 6 months of the measurement year (Medicaid), with no more than one gap in enrollment of up to 45 days (commercial) or up to 1 month (Medicaid) during the measurement year, and who were enrolled at the time the survey was completed

DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Enrollees or beneficiaries

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Health plan members with chronic conditions 17 years and younger whose parent or guardian answered the "Access to Specialized Services" questions on the CAHPS 4.0H Child Questionnaire. Include nonresponses*.

Children with chronic conditions (CCC) represent a relatively small proportion of the general population of children. To achieve a sufficient number of complete surveys for CCC results to be calculated, a supplemental sample of children who are more likely to have a chronic condition is selected and added to the standard CAHPS 4.0H child survey sample. Refer to the original measure documentation for details.

*Nonresponses:

- Refusal
- After maximum attempts
- Bad addresses
- Bad addresses and nonworking/unlisted phone number or member is unknown at the dialed phone number

Exclusions

- Deceased
- Does not meet *eligible population* criteria (see "Description of Case Finding" field)
- Language barrier

RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Clinical Condition
Patient Characteristic

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window precedes index event

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

The number of "Never," "Sometimes," "Usually," and "Always" responses on the "Access to Specialized Services" questions

From the responses, a composite mean and variance score are calculated. A higher composite mean is associated with better quality. Additionally, a composite global proportion and variance are calculated as well as item-specific question summary rates for each composite question.

Note: A questionnaire must have the final disposition code of *Complete and Valid* survey for inclusion in the survey results calculations.

Refer to the original measure documentation for details.

Exclusions

Unspecified

MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Fixed time period

DATA SOURCE

Administrative data
Patient survey

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Not Individual Case

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

SCORING

Non-weighted Score/Composite/Scale

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Analysis by subgroup (stratification on patient factors, geographic factors, etc.)

DESCRIPTION OF ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

This measure requires that results are reported separately for the commercial and Medicaid product lines.

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

External comparison at a point in time
External comparison of time trends
Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties

EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

Unspecified

Identifying Information

ORIGINAL TITLE

Access to specialized services.

MEASURE COLLECTION

[HEDIS® 2009: Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set](#)

MEASURE SET NAME

[Satisfaction with the Experience of Care](#)

MEASURE SUBSET NAME

[CAHPS Health Plan Survey 4.0H, Child Version -- Children With Chronic Conditions](#)

DEVELOPER

National Committee for Quality Assurance

FUNDING SOURCE(S)

Unspecified

COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPED THE MEASURE

National Committee for Quality Assurance's (NCQA's) Measurement Advisory Panels (MAPs) are composed of clinical and research experts with an understanding of quality performance measurement in the particular clinical content areas.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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ADAPTATION

Measure was adapted from another source.

PARENT MEASURE

CAHPS 4.0 Health Plan Survey (Child Questionnaire)

RELEASE DATE

2004 Jan

REVISION DATE

2008 Jul

MEASURE STATUS

This is the current release of the measure.

This measure updates a previous version: National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). HEDIS 2008: Healthcare Effectiveness Data & Information Set. Vol. 2, Technical Specifications. Washington (DC): National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA); 2007 Jul. various p.

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MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Access to Specialized Services," is published in "HEDIS® 2009. Healthcare Effectiveness Data & Information Set. Vol. 2, Technical Specifications."

For more information, contact the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) at 1100 13th Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005; Telephone: 202-955-3500; Fax: 202-955-3599; Web site: www.ncqa.org.

NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on April 9, 2007. The information was not verified by the measure developer. This NQMC summary was updated by ECRI Institute on March 17, 2008. The information was verified by the measure developer on April 24, 2008. This NQMC summary was updated again by ECRI Institute on February 6, 2009. The information was verified by the measure developer on May 12, 2009.

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